AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A sintered scaffold material comprising ~~sintered~~ glass or ceramic fibers, ~~and~~ wherein the scaffold material has a porosity of between about 50 volume % and about 90 volume % ~~is porous~~.

2. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1, wherein glass fibers comprise bioactive glass fibers.

3. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 2, wherein the glass fibers are sintered together at a temperature from about 300 to about 1500 °C.

4. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 2, wherein the glass fibers are sintered together at a temperature from about 600 to about 700 °C.

5. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 2, wherein the glass fibers are sintered together at a temperature from about 630 to about 680 °C.

6. (Currently Amended): A sintered glass scaffold comprising ~~sintered~~ glass fibers, wherein the fibers have ~~having~~ a coating of one or more biocompatible polymers or copolymers.

7. (Original): The scaffold of claim 6, wherein the glass fibers comprise bioactive glass fibers.

8. (Original): The scaffold of claim 6 or 7, wherein the biocompatible polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyglycolide, polylactide, poly-β-hydroxybutyric acid, polydioxanone, polyvinylalcohol, polyesteramine, their copolymers and polymer blends thereof.

9. (Original): The scaffold of claim 6, wherein the coating has a thickness of about 1 to about 200 μm.

10. (Original): The scaffold of claim 6, wherein the coating has a thickness of from about 5 to about 30 μm.

11. (Original): The scaffold of claim 6, wherein glass fibers coated with a polymer are sintered at a temperature of about 50 to about 300 °C.

12. (Original): The scaffold of claim 6 wherein the glass fibers coated with a polymer are sintered at a temperature of about 100 to about 200 °C.

13. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the glass fibers comprise bioactive glass having a composition of about 53 - about 60 wt-% SiO_2, about 0 - about 34 wt-% Na_2O, about 1 - about 20 wt-% K_2O, about 0 - about 5 wt-% MgO, about 5 - about 25 wt-% CaO, about 0 - about 4 wt-% B_2O_3, about 0,5 - about 6 wt-% P_2O_5, wherein Na_2O in combination with K_2O is present in an amount between about 16 - about 35 wt-%; K_2O in combination with MgO is present in an amount between about 5 - about 20 wt-% and MgO in combination with CaO is present in an amount between about 10 - about 25 wt-%.

14. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the glass fibers comprise bioactive glass having a composition of about 53 wt-% SiO_2, about 6 wt-% Na_2O, about 12 wt-% K_2O, about 5 wt-% MgO, about 20 wt-% CaO, about 0 wt-% B_2O_3 and about 4 wt-% P_2O_5.

15. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the fibers prior to sintering have a length from about 2 to about 30 mm.

16. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the fibers prior to sintering have a length from about 5 to about 15 mm.

17. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the glass fibers are sintered for about 1 to about 120 minutes.

18. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the glass fibers are sintered for about 5 to about 30 minutes.

19. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the fibers prior to sintering have a diameter of about 0.010 - 1.0 mm.

20. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the fibers prior to sintering have a diameter of about 0.030 - 0.300 mm.

21. (Currently Amended): The scaffold of claim [1 or] 6, wherein the scaffold has a ~~the~~ porosity of ~~the scaffold is~~ between about 5 volume % ~~to~~ and about 95 volume % ~~vol %~~.

22. (Currently Amended): The scaffold of claim [1 or] 6, wherein the scaffold has a ~~the~~ porosity of ~~the scaffold is~~ between about 50 volume % ~~to~~ and about 90 volume % ~~vol %~~.

23. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1, wherein the scaffold is a carrier for bioactive agents.

24. (Original): The scaffold of claim 6, wherein the scaffold is a carrier for bioactive agents.

25. (Original): The scaffold of claim 23, wherein the bioactive agent is selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents, antibacterial agents, antiparasitic agents, antifungal agents, antiviral agents, anti-neoplastic agents, analgesic agents, anaesthetics, vaccines, central nervous system agents, growth factors, hormones, antihistamines, osteoinductive agents, cardiovascular agents, anti-ulcer agents, bronchodilators, vasodilators, birth control agents, fertility enhancing agents and polypeptides.

26. (Original): The scaffold of claim 24, wherein the bioactive agent is selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents, antibacterial agents, antiparasitic agents, antifungal agents, antiviral agents, anti-neoplastic agents, analgesic agents, anaesthetics, vaccines, central nervous system agents, growth factors, hormones, antihistamines, osteoinductive agents, cardiovascular agents, anti-ulcer agents, bronchodilators, vasodilators, birth control agents, fertility enhancing agents and polypeptides.

27. (Original): The scaffold of claim 23, wherein the bioactive agent is bone morphogenetic protein.

28. (Original): The scaffold of claim 24, wherein the bioactive agent is bone morphogenetic protein.

29. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the compressive strength of the scaffold is from about 5 to about 25 MPa.

30. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6 wherein the compressive strength of the scaffold is over 20 MPa.

31. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1, wherein the scaffold is attached to a biocompatible polymeric film.

32. (Original): The scaffold of claim 6, wherein the scaffold is attached to a biocompatible polymeric film.

33. (Original): The scaffold according to claim 31 or 32, wherein the biocompatible polymeric film comprises a polymer or polymers selected from the group consisting of polyglycolide, polylactide, poly-β-hydroxybutyric acid, polydioxanone, polyvinylalcohol, polyesteramine, their copolymers and polymer blends thereof.

34. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6 is capable of promoting bone regeneration.

35. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the fibers are sintered together under compressive load.

36. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the fibers are sintered together in a mold form.

37. (Original): The scaffold of claim 1 or 6, wherein the fibers form a mat which is attached to a membrane.

38-49 (withdrawn)